

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 15067 210639Z

13

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-03 DODE-00 PM-03 L-02 PRS-01 RSR-01

/059 W

----- 006898

R 210433Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6209

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15067

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SITREP, AUGUST 20

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON AUG 20 INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG
NKP RTAFB REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

NHA TRANG 780

1. SECURITY SITUATION: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 2 INCREASED
SLIGHTLY OVER THE PAST 72 HOURS. THE SHARP URSURGE IN FIGHTING
ON AUG 17 (REPORTED NHA TRANG 0778) RECEDED OVER THE WEEKEND.
THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 69 INCIDENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD,
AND THEY WERE CONCENTRATED, AS USUAL, IN KONTUM AND BINH DINH.
MOST WERE REPORTED AS ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE, TO WHICH RVNAF
RESPONDED. THE TAM QUAN (BINH DINH) DISTRICT CHIEF WAS ASSASS-
INATED AUG 17. CASUALTY AGGREGATES DECREASED: VC/NVA: 48 KIA;
RVNAF: 11 KIA AND 59 WIA. THE NUMBER OF AIRSTRIKES, CONCEN-
TRATED
IN BINH DINH AND KONTUM, INCREASED: 26 ON AUGUST 17, 44 ON
AUGUST 18, AND 16 ON AUGUST 19.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 15067 210639Z

2. HOSTILITIES HAVE INCREASED STEADILY DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST,

RISING FROM AN AVERAGE OF AROUND TEN INCIDENTS A DAY IN THE FIRST WEEK TO AROUND TWENTY DURING THE THIRD WEEK. CASUALTIES HAVE RISEN COMMENSURATELY. THE INCREASED ACTIVITY HAS BEEN CONCENTRATED IN THE TRADITIONALLY BELLICOSE AREAS OF NORTHEASTERN BINH DINH AND WEST AND SOUTHWEST OF KONTUM CITY. THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW LARGE ENGAGEMENTS (SEE NHA TRANG 0757 AND 0764), BUT IN GENERAL THE INCREASE HAS CONSISTED OF SMALLER INCIDENTS PRECIPITATED BY RVNAF EXPANSION IN BINH DINH AND BY NAMEUVERS ATTENDING THE BATTLE FOR TRUNG NGHIA IN KONTUM.

3. IN GENERAL CONVERSATION THIS MORNING AT CORNERSTONE-LAYING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE BUILDING IN NHA

TRANG, MAJ GEN TOAN TOLD ME HE WAS CALLING ALL HIS PROVINCE CHIEFS IN FOR A MEETING THIS AFTERNOON. HE INTENDS TO BRIEF THEM ON THE MILITARY SITUATION, THE SENATE ELECTION, AND THE DENIAL OF RESOURCES TO THE ENEMY. TOAN MENTIONED THAT ARVN TROOPS WERE "ONE-THIRD" OF THE WAY INTO TRUNG NGHIA (SEE NHA TRANG 0778), WERE REALLY DUG-IN, AND WOULD HANG ON IN FACE OF THE STRONGLY-ENTRENCHED ENEMY. HE ALSO TOLD ME THAT HE HAD INFORMATION

- NOT YET CONFIRMED- THAT THE 141ST REGT OF THE NVA 2ND DIVISION IS COMING TO BINH DINH FROM QUANG NGAI TO REPLACE THE 2ND REGT OF THE 3RD DIVISION, WHICH WILL MOVE NORTH.

4. AT THE SAME CEREMONY, SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE TRAN VAN LINH SAID THE NEW COURT BUILDING WOULD BE LARGE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE A COURT OF APPEALS AS WELL AS THE COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE. LINH INTENDS TO SUPPLEMENT THE PRESENT COURTS OF APPEALS- WHICH SIT ONLY AT SAIGON AND HUE- WITH ONE AT NHA TRANG. SIGNED COOK UNQUOTE MARTIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON15067
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MARTIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730825/aaaaasac.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MR 2 SITREP, AUGUST 20 FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON AUG 20 INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005